

## Issue 12 June 22, 2007

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### Items of Interest:

**Diversity Outreach by Senior Nurses in Navy Medicine May 21-24.** The Senior Nurses at BUMED leaped at an opportunity to work with a group of 11 diverse high school students and show them a real perspective of the variety of jobs Navy Nurses have. The students worked with nurses for one week and loved the internships experience. They shadowed nurses at BUMED and the National Naval Medical Center and experienced working with nurse practitioners, midwives and Senior Nurse Executives. The excitement of the experience caused six of the eligible students to express plans on joining the Navy and the Nurse Corps after college.

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## USNS Comfort Heads South for Humanitarian Mission

From American Forces Press Service

**NORFOLK** - The USNS Comfort (T-AH-20) departed Norfolk June 15 on its first large-scale humanitarian assistance deployment to Central America, South America and the Caribbean, where it will provide medical care to an estimated 85,000 patients from communities with limited health care access.

President Bush announced in March that the Comfort would deploy to U.S. Southern Command's area of focus to provide humanitarian aid alongside health care providers from the region and non-governmental organizations.

"Planning for this mission has incorporated various non-government organizations and government agencies, such as Operation Smile, Project Hope, the Atlanta Rotary Club, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Health



**NORFOLK, Va.** - Line handlers assigned to amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) stand by to cast the mooring lines as Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) gets underway to take part in a multi-month humanitarian assistance deployment to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility June 15. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Robert J.*

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**PENTAGON** - Co-chairperson of the DoD Mental Health Task Force Vice Adm. Donald Arthur, U.S. Navy, backed by members of his team, leads a Pentagon press conference on June 15, 2007, dealing with their recently released report to Congress. Members of the DoD Mental Health Task Force on stage are, from the left: Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy Rear Adm. John Meteczun, Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force Maj. Gen. Bruce Green, Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command and Acting Surgeon General of the Army Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock, Arthur and Director of Purdue University's Military Family Research Institute Dr. Shelly MacDermid. *U.S. Department of Defense photo by R. D. Ward*

## Hospital Corps Wreath-Laying Ceremony Held at Navy Memorial

From the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs Office

**WASHINGTON** – Navy Medicine commemorated the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Hospital Corps and paid tribute to Sailors who provided medical and dental care to their fellow service members with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial on June 15.

Rear Adm. Edward K. Walker, Jr. (Ret.), United States Navy Memorial Treasurer hosted the event. Vice Adm. Donald Arthur, MC, Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Gerard Chiu, Deputy Director of the Hospital Corps, were honored guests and participants in the ceremony.

"Navy Medicine serves the Navy and Marine Corps with great dignity and with great pride. Every day, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, our hospitals and our clinics, and our places where medicine is applied are always open and they deliver the world's best care. We often say we never ask

our patients how sick they can afford to be, that every one of our patients gets the right care every single time because they are members of our families and they are all patriots. The great honor we bestow today is not just for the care delivered in our hospitals. It is for the care delivered overseas on foreign shores and whenever we are called to put our lives in harms way for our fellow Sailors and Marines," said Arthur. "Thank you very much Rear Adm. Walker for honoring Navy Medicine, especially Navy Medicine's finest, our hospital corpsmen who are right at the cutting edge of our front lines."

With the Color and Honor Guards standing at attention on both sides of the Lone Sailor statue, a wreath with red and white flowers was placed at the foot of the statue. The wreath is a token of honor to all hospital corpsmen, past, present and future.

Navy Medicine Sailors have provided care to their fellow Sailors and Marines for the past 165 years. With a force of 23,000 active duty



**U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL, Washington** – (From right to left) As the Navy Medicine wreath is laid at the foot of the Lone Sailor statue, Rear Adm. Edward K. Walker, Jr. (Ret.), U.S. Navy Memorial Treasurer, Vice Adm. Donald Arthur, MC, Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Gerard Chiu, Deputy Director of the Hospital Corps, render a salute in honor of Navy Medicine's fallen hospital corpsmen. *U.S. Navy photo by the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs Office*

and Reservists members, the Hospital Corps officially celebrated its birthday on Sunday, June 17.

## Naval Hospital Bremerton Retains Gold Seal of Medical Accreditation

By Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class Fletcher Gibson, Naval  
Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs

**BREMERTON, Wash.** - Patient safety and quality of care took center stage last week as Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) completed its week-long Joint Commission and Medical Inspector General accreditation surveys, completing the inspections May 25 with flying colors.

"I could not be more pleased with either inspection," said NHB Commanding Officer Capt. Catherine Wilson.

The inspection teams evaluated all aspects of patient care, examining everything from patient admission to follow-up checks. Every hospital function that comes in contact with a patient was surveyed to give

the most complete picture of the quality of care.

"Their focus is quality in patient safety and it's a fairly rigorous survey," said Cmdr. Terence Finnerty, NHB's department head of quality management.

According to Finnerty, the Joint Commission doesn't give a number grade of its evaluation, instead simply giving a "pass/fail" decision and a list of the elements that need improving. The end result is a level of pride that comes from meeting the commission's standards and maintaining accreditation.

"I think it's a good measure of quality and we're demonstrating that when it comes to patient care and safety. We're meeting or exceeding the standards," said Finnerty.

Joint Commission inspections are unannounced, with any particular hospital getting inspected at least once in three years. A percentage of hospitals will get random surveys between the three-year benchmarks, making the commission inspections a truer picture of the day-to-day workings of the hospital.

"It's not what happens for the week," said Wilson. "It's what happens every day."

While commission accreditation isn't required for a hospital to function, it has become the gold standard of patient care for the nearly 1,600 hospitals worldwide which volunteer to be surveyed. Department of Defense hospitals such as

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## Marines Honor Navy Doc with Bronze Star

By Deborah Kallgren and Mass Communications Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class Eric Deatherage, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Public Affairs

**NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, Va.** – The U.S. Marine Corps awarded Navy Capt. Kevin Knoop with the Bronze Star Thursday, June 14, for meritorious achievement at Camp Al Taqadum, Iraq. On behalf of the Marines, Rear Adm. Thomas Cullison, Commander, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, presented the medal.

Knoop, a 22-year Navy veteran and Chesapeake resident, is an emergency physician and the Director of Graduate Medical Education at the medical center. He served as the Officer in Charge of the Taqaddum Surgical Shock Trauma Platoon from February through September 2005.

"I can't say enough about the great job Capt. Knoop, and everyone there, is doing for our troops," said Cullison. Knoop's team of 54 highly skilled Sailors and Marines provided Level II medical care to 450 patients, including 360 combat-wounded Coalition service members. Taqaddum Surgical achieved a 95 percent survival rate for all patients, including

those arriving in critical condition. Nearly 25 percent of the Coalition Forces patients were returned to full duty. As a Senior Flight Surgeon, Knoop also provided instruction in aviation medicine.

"I can't explain how rewarding it was to serve in that role," said Knoop. "What I saw there was awe inspiring. Everyone there displayed extreme focus and determination... just great chemistry. It's an honor to have served with, and be the leader of such a great group. This is truly a team award."

The citation, signed on behalf of the President by Lt. Gen. J.N. Mattis, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command, states, "Captain Knoop displayed incomparable medical skill, exceptional wisdom and innovation, and outstanding leadership in guiding Taqaddum Surgical to successful mission accomplishment, contributing greatly to II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) success in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM."

Col. Robert DeStafney, the Marine Commanding Officer deployed with Knoop at Camp Al Taqaddum, drove from his current duty station at Camp Lejeune, N.C., to Portsmouth to attend the ceremony with



**NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, Va.** - Rear Adm. Thomas Cullison, Commander Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, presents the Bronze Star to Capt. Kevin Knoop June 14. *U.S. Navy photo by Hospital Corpsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Prixa Souvanavong*

Knoop's family. "He's a great team builder," said DeStafney of Knoop. "He's a superb leader, humble and honest. We wouldn't have experienced the success we did without his leadership."

The Bronze Star Medal is a U.S. Armed Forces individual military decoration and is the fourth highest award. It is awarded for bravery, heroism or meritorious service.

## Comfort continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

and Human Services. This is truly a joint military-civilian operation," said Navy Capt. Bob Kapcio, Comfort's mission commander.

Scheduled to remain in the region through September, the Comfort will visit Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Comfort's medical treatment facility includes a staff of approximately 500 medical personnel whose specialties include general surgery; orthopedics; plastic surgery; pediatric surgery; oral surgery; ear, nose and throat; and obstetrics and gynecology. In addition to basic care, the crew expects to perform about 1,500 sur-

## Bremerton continued...

*(Continued from page 2)*

NHB participate in the program as a way of demonstrating the quality of care available to their beneficiaries.

While the Joint Commission focuses on patient care,

geries during the deployment. The medical team is trained and equipped to provide health care services, ranging from basic tooth extractions and wellness education to surgical repair of cleft lips and palates, and tumor removals.

"This deployment provides an opportunity for us to work together with countries in the region to make a lasting contribution across our hemisphere," said Adm. James G. Stavridis, commander of U.S. Southern Command. "Comfort's mission will reach far beyond the patients we will see each day. We will undoubtedly touch the lives of many families whose hardships will be lessened while strengthening our partnerships with the countries we visit."

a representative of the Medical Inspector General conducts his own inspection of the hospital's other areas of operation such as administration and security. Between the two teams, no aspect of the hospital is left unturned.



## EMFK Host Women's Health Symposium

By Mass Communications Specialist  
1<sup>st</sup> Class (SW) Cindy Gill, Medical  
Treatment Facility/ Expeditionary  
Medical Facility Kuwait Public Affairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait (EMFK) Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Health Symposium May 16. The event coincided with National Women's Health Week - May 13-19.

The four hour seminar of presentations by TMC doctors and nurses covered a wide variety of health issues including nutrition, communication, contraception, mammograms and osteoporosis. One topic not specific to women but appropriate to the environment was combat stress. Information tables and blood pressure screenings were also made available to attendees.

"It's important to take time out in a relaxing environment to remind women we are here to help," said Lt. Erica Arnold, event coordinator. "We are always available to answer questions." Arnold stressed that even in a deployed environment

help is available.

The first speaker, dietician Lt. Cmdr. Paul Allen said it wasn't exciting eating right. An individual's nutritional choices at the dining facility are key to a healthy diet. "Look to the bars. Salad, potato, pasta, fruit, and avoid the brown line where the choices are generally fried."

During 'She Said, He Said', Cmdr. Patricia Kisner, mental health nurse practitioner covered the different ways men and women communicate. Lt. Cmdr. Tracy Altland discussed contraception options.

"Stress is always a hot topic. In theater we have the additional layer of combat" said HM1 Tina Beshers. It's important to know what to look for, not only in ourselves, but those we work with and along side of."

Lt. Cmdr. Christine Gruschkus took the floor to discuss osteoporosis. Generally associated with older women, bringing awareness as early as possible of potential health issues can encourage life-style changes that could minimize or eliminate problems in the future. She emphasized calcium intake and



**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – Lt. Krystal Turner gives a brief detailing proper breast self examinations during Troop Medical Clinic's Women's Health Symposium here May 16. The symposium was held as part of National Women's Health Week, May 13-19. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SW) Cindy Gill

nutrition as a fundamental way to combat the disease. Excessive physical over training can also be detrimental to bones. "Listen to

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## Carl Vinson Chaplain's Distinguished Service

By Mass Communication Specialist  
Seaman Apprentice Philip Schricket,  
USS Carl Vinson Public Affairs

**NEWPORT NEWS, Va.** - A Navy chaplain from USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), Lt. Shane Dillman was recognized May 17 for his outstanding ministry and pastoral leadership to members of the armed forces during an award ceremony hosted by the United States Military Chaplains' Association.

The U.S. Navy's Chief of Chaplains, Rear Adm. Robert Burt presented the 2007 Distinguished Service Award to Dillman during a ceremony held in San Antonio.

Dillman was recognized for his devotion to the spiritual welfare of Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families during a recent individual augmentation (IA) deployment in support of the global war on terrorism, and pastoral services he provided at Bethesda Na-

val Hospital in Bethesda, Md.

Sailors from Carl Vinson's religious ministries department (RMD) expressed their admiration for Dillman's accomplishments in winning the prestigious award.

"Chaplain Dillman has a deep concern for the spiritual, emotional, and physical welfare of his shipmates and their families," said Religious Program Specialist 1st Class (AW/SW) Kathleen Matthews, RMD's leading petty officer. "His main focus has always been for his Sailors and Marines."

For six months, Dillman gave counsel as a part of the Expeditionary Medical Facility Camp Pendleton, Calif., in support of U.S. operations in Iraq.

But for Dillman, being a military chaplain is more than just answering the call of duty. Dillman said a Navy chaplain must go the extra mile for the Sailors and Marines

they serve with, even through the most challenging of circumstances.

"The true job of the chaplain is showing the troops that you care," said Dillman.

This deep concern for the welfare of Sailors and Marines has guided Dillman in taking assignments where he's needed the most. During Dillman's tour at Bethesda Naval Hospital, he had the opportunity to minister to many Marines and Sailors returning home from Iraq.

For his service that is set in serving others, Dillman takes great pride in working with service members, those whom Dillman insists are the real heroes.

"I consider it a great honor to be able to care for, support, and pray for some of America's greatest heroes; our Sailors and Marines," Dillman said. "I'm here to encourage them and give them hope."

## Corpsmen Aboard Stennis Celebrate Birthday, Dedicate Wall

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Davis Anderson, USS John  
C. Stennis Public Affairs

**USS JOHN C. STENNIS, At Sea** - Hospital corpsmen aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) celebrated the 109th anniversary of the Navy Hospital Corps in a ceremony held in the ship's main medical facility June 17.

Hospital corpsman is the largest and most highly decorated rating in the Navy with 22 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. They go to every duty station and serve with the Marine Corps, which has no related job specialty.

For the Stennis Medical Department, this was a special day as well as a special moment in the history of the ship. Stennis is on its fifth deployment supporting Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF), providing air power support to fellow corpsmen among the troops on the ground. While remembering the corpsmen who gave the ultimate sacrifice, Stennis Sailors looked to recent history as corpsmen from the ship have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and could deploy to these countries in

the future.

"There have been a couple of corpsmen from the ship who have either been in one of the operations or are there right now," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (AW/SW/FMF) Teresa K. Barnet, Medical Department leading chief petty officer. "They left from here and went straight to the Marines, and they're in country now. It's a pretty close thing for us."

The corpsmen also took this opportunity to dedicate a wall in main Medical to their comrades who lost their lives in OIF or OEF -- 24 in all. For the ceremony, Stennis invited U.S. Naval Central Command Force Surgeon Capt. Charles Baxter to participate in the dedication of the wall.

"It's a reminder to us all; I want everybody to understand the sacrifice. I think it should be in every single medical institution," said Baxter. "People who see this need to understand what it is that we do."

During the ceremony, some of the 57 corpsmen aboard Stennis read the names and citations of the fallen corpsmen. These weren't just

names; they were people they had known, friends with careers both long and short.

The hospital corpsmen aboard Stennis have worked hard to create this memorial. Their goal was to show they understood the sacrifices of those corpsmen who lost their lives and the sacrifice they may have to make in service to their country.

"We have people who are taking the time, not on their shift, to do the wall," said Ash. "Everybody has done a great job. I think it's time well spent. That could have been me; it could have been us."

It is also a tradition for corpsmen on their rating's birthday to reaffirm the oath they take upon completion of Hospital Corpsman "A" School to serve their fellow service members faithfully.

"It felt very good to reaffirm my oath today," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Benjamin Morgan. "It reminds me of why I do what I do every day."

## Kuwait continued...

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your body and don't break yourself."

During the breast health segment, Lt. Krystal Turner covered

proper breast self exams and Cmdr. Lynn Bergren showed examples of mammograms with early stage cancer and for comparison, healthy tissue x-rays. "With the exception of skin malignancies, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in U.S. women. One in 33 will die of it," said Bergren.

The final presentation covered HPV, or human papillomavirus, by Cmdr. Debra Pennington. The HPV virus causes genital warts and abnormal cells which can lead to cervical cancer. Pennington said HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. today. The virus, of which 100 types are known, often has no symptoms. Types of HPV are known by numbers. Low risk types are numbers 6

and 11, associated with genital warts. The most common are 16 and 18, which are attributed to cervical cancer. Currently, the only method of detection is a Pap Smear; there are no tests available for men. The vaccine, Gardasil, helps protect against HPV. The FDA has approved the three-shot series recommended for females age nine to 26. "(Gardasil is) ideally given before the onset of sexual activity," said Pennington. "It offers a new approach in cervical cancer prevention, although the best bet is still the Pap Smear."

At the conclusion, Arnold thanked the attendees and expressed her hope the information discussed will make a difference in their lives.



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